

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 17317

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (FORD, GERALD R.)

SUBJ: PRESS CONTINGENT AT VLADIVOSTOK

REF: MOSCOW 17275

1. KORNIYENKO TELEPHONED ME THIS AFTERNOON, SAYING HE WAS CALLING IN RESPONSE TO MY DEMARCHE YESTERDAY REGARDING THE NUMBER OF CORRESPONDENTS WHICH COULD BE ACCOMMODATED IN VLADIVOSTOK. HE SAID THAT, AFTER FUTHER REVIEW BY MINISTRY IN LIGHT OF STATEMENTS I HAD MADE, SOVIET SIDE WOULD AGREE TO ACCEPT TOTAL OF 60 U.S. CORRESPONDENTS AT VLADIVOSTOK. HE STRESSED THAT THIS NUMBER SHOULD INCLUDE ONLY RPT ONLY U.S. CORRESPONDENTS AND NO RPT NO THIRD-COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT NUMBER OF SOVIET CORRESPONDENTS, WHICH WAS TO BE LIMITED IN ANY CASE, WOULD BE REDUCED FURTHER IN ORDER TO PERMIT 60 U.S. CORRESPONDENTS TO COVER VLADIVOSTOK MEETING.

2. KORNIYENKO EMPHASIZED THAT U.S. SODE HAD KNOWN FROM BEGINNING THAT ACCOMMODATIONS IN VLADIVOSTOK WERE VERY LIMITED AND THAT OVERALL NUMBER OF PRESIDENTIAL PARTY AND OF ACCOMPANYING CORRESPONDENTS NECESSARILY WOULD HAVE TO BE LIMITED. HE ADDED THAT, IN VIEW OF RECORD, SOVIETS DID NOT UNDERSTAND "THREATENING" PHRASES CONTAINED IN MY DEMARCHE ABOUT ADVERSE EFFECTS ON SUMMIT MEETING IF SOVIETS INSISTED ON REDUCED NUMBER OF CORRESPONDENTS. HE FELT PROBLEM SHOULD BE
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SEEN OBJECTIVELY AND NOT EXAGGERATED.

3. KORNIYENKO NOTED IN PASSING THAT LIST OF COREESPONDENTS RECEIVED BY DOBRYNIN IN WASHINGTON HAD INCLUDED SOUTH KOREAN JOURNALISTS AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF RADIO LIBERTY. KORNIYENKO SAID, ON PERSONAL BASIS, HE FELT LATTER WAS "OUTRAGEOUS;" THERE WAS, OF COURSE, NO CHANCE THAT SUCH PERSONS WOULD BE ADMITTED.

4. WITH REGARD TO GENERAL LIMITATIONS ON NUMBERS AT VLADIVOSTOK, KORNIYENKO ALSO SAID THAT LIST OF OVER 180 PEOPLE IN PRESIDNTIAL PARTY WAS MUCH MORE THAN COULD BE HANDLED REALISTICALLY. AS U.S. ADVANCE PARTY HAD BEEN ADVISED, TOTAL OF "MORE OR LESS 100" COULD BE ACCOMMODATED. KORNIYENKO SAID THAT DOBRYNIN WOULD BE DISCUSSING THIS PROBLEM DIRECTLY IN WASHINGTON. STOESEL

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